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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A method for operating a data communication system comprises the steps of (a) originating an electronic commerce transaction at a first party, (b) transmitting the electronic commerce transaction through the data communications network towards a second party, (c) during the step of transmitting, inputting the electronic commerce transaction to an electronic commerce transaction filter that is interposed between two network components, and (e) operating the electronic commerce transaction filter to take some action with respect to the electronic commerce transaction.

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